

REMARKS

The present application is a national stage application under 35 U.S.C. Section 371. Accordingly, the restriction practice under 35 U.S.C. Section 121 does not apply to the present application.

Pursuant to MPEP Section 1895.01(D), unity of invention principles are to apply to a national stage application and the restriction practice under 35 U.S.C. Section 121 is not applicable. Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. Section 1.475, a unity of invention can include both a product and a process specifically adapted for the manufacture of the product.

As can be seen from the International Search Report submitted herewith and in accordance with 37 C.F.R. Section 1.476, a determination of unity of invention has already been made before the International Searching Authority and an action was provided on both claims for the product and method of manufacturing the product. Accordingly, applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the Restriction Requirement and an action on the full set of claims.

In an effort to be fully responsive to this request, applicants hereby traverse the Restriction Requirement for the reasons set forth above. If applicants' understanding of the unity of invention requirements are erroneous, applicant hereby elects the subject matter of Group II, Claims 18-32 and 56-57. However, applicants would appreciate an explanation as to how 35 U.S.C. Section 121 would be applicable to a national stage application.

If the Examiner believes a telephone interview will help further the prosecution of this case, he is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the listed telephone number.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to the Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on January 18, 2002.

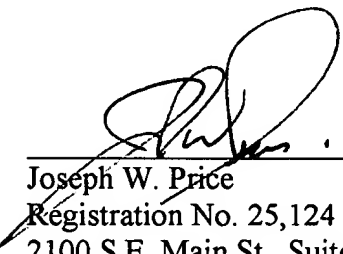
By: Marc Fregoso

Marc Fregoso
Signature

Date: January 18, 2002

Respectfully submitted,

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Joseph W. Price
Registration No. 25,124
2100 S.E. Main St., Suite 250
Irvine, California 92614
Telephone: 949/261-8433